(e) how many times they visited by air and how many times by rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Vegetable Oil as Substitute of Diesel Oil

925. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(c) if so, what are the details has been drawn to the 'Hindustan Times' Report of April 11, 1986 in which it has been stated that vegetable oils have been found as a possible substitute or supplement of diesel oil;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken by Government to start experiment on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The news report on the subject does not appear in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 11th/12th April, 1986.

(b) and (c) Experimental studies are reported to have been made in countries like Brazil and Phillipines to use vegetable oils as an admixture with Diesel Oils.

This technology is not relevant to India where vegetable oils are in short supply and their prices are high. Therefore, no experimentation with this technology is considered necessary in India at present.

Ceiling of Gratuity in respect of Coal Workers

926. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the ceiling of gratuity payment for its employees;

(b) if so, whether the increase is applicable in the case of coal worker also; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions raising the ceiling of gratuity payment from Rs. 36,000 to Rs. 50,000/- have already been issued with respect to employees drawing wages exceeding Rs. 1600 per month and this is expected to cover almost entire gamut of coal workers. However, there might be a few isolated cases where a small number of employees would continue to be covered by Payment of Gratuity Act, entitling them to receive a gratuity amount of and upto Rs. 36,000/- only. Such cases will be looked into individually by the Coal India Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

Purchase of crude oil

927. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) which were the countries from whom Government have purchased crude oil during the year 1985-86, the quantity and the price